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SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 1 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,716 TWO CENTS

GERMANS HAVE REACHED THE MARNE; ARE HELD UP AT RHEIMS AND SOISSONS

Big Battle Rages for Possession of Chateau Thierry---French Repulse German Attacks Along Oise and Ailette Rivers---Forty-Five German Divisions Already Thrown Into Battle---Large Masses of Enemy Reserves Still Remain in North.

CANADIAN HOSPITAL BOMBED HUNDREDS BURIED IN DEBRIS

Nothing More Awful Has Occurred in Annals of Hospital Service Since War Began.

WITH the British Army in France, May 31.—Early on Thursday morning German airmen bombed another hospital—this time a Canadian institution—and exacted a considerable toll of casualties. The raid occurred at 12.30 o'clock in the morning. The hospital attacked was a large one. It had been in existence since the early days of the war and was marked by huge red cross signs. The German airmen were working partly by the light of the moon and dropped four bombs near the hospital and, then not apparently seeing exactly where they were hitting, lighted a brilliant flare, which was let fall to illuminate the surroundings.

Wing Demolished.
 As the place was lit up by this flare, they released another bomb or two which dropped squarely on a large wing of the hospital. In this wing there were three floors on the bottom, one of which was the operating room. On the storey above, were the office and patients' room and above them were members of the hospital personnel. Part of a wing was demolished by the terrific explosion and many unfortunate people were killed and wounded when the building collapsed and buried them.

Strange to say, those who were on the top floor had better luck than those below them and several escaped because they fell on top of the debris.

The surgeons were just about to operate on an aviation officer. All those in the room were buried under an avalanche of brick and woodwork. The demolished wing caught fire and burned fiercely, with many victims still pinned in the wreckage.

Nothing more awful has occurred in the annals of the hospital service since the war began. Every available person in the neighborhood was called out to assist in the rescue work, and two fire brigades were called in. With the assistance of ladders and other fire apparatus, the hospital proper was rapidly emptied of patients and personnel. It was a desperate situation. A roaring furnace represented what was left of the big wing.

Scores of people worked frenziedly at the flaming mass of twisted timbers in their attempts to reach those entombed, and many unconscious forms were carried out by heroic men who risked their lives to reach them. Excellent work on the part of the firemen finally resulted in the fire being extinguished, but there were still many people, including more than one sister, buried in the ruins. There was no hope that they were alive.

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GERMAN ADVANCE IN JEOPARDY SO LONG AS FRENCH HOLD OUT

Altho a Wedge Has Been Driven Into the Allied Line for Ten Miles on the Marne, French and British Troops Are Holding Flank Positions Gallantly—Occupation of Chateau Thierry Marks Beginning of Turning Movement Towards Paris.

PLUNGING southward, with its momentum still unspent, the German war machine has driven its wedge into the allied lines along the front until its apex has reached the Marne River south of Fere-en-Tardenois. The desperate efforts of the French and British to stem the tide against the invaders have served only to slow down the rate of speed of the German advance; the defenders of the heights north of the Marne seem to have been swept aside in the rush of the enemy toward the road to Paris.

Aside from the movement of the German armies southward, two other significant incidents of the tremendous battle have occurred. One is that the Germans have extended their attack to the northwest, along the Ailette River, from which the French have fallen back for some distance. The other is that the battle has extended to the east of Rheims, which city, during the first few days of the battle, formed the extreme eastern end of the line of battle.

Along the sides of the salient formed by the rapid German advance to the Marne, the French and British have been holding their positions gallantly. South of Soissons, the French have defended their line with such vigor that the Germans have not made much impression upon it. On the other side of the battle area, the British are still holding the forts of Rheims and positions just west of that war-stricken city.

Between the extreme sides of the salient the front sags toward the south, the line from Rheims to the Marne running to the southwest at a gentle angle, while the French are holding a front at right angles to the direction of the German advance.

The spirit of the allied troops is marvelous under the circumstances. The correspondent saw French and British battalions who had just come out of the terrible struggle, singing along the road, in spite of their exhaustion.

A story just to hand tells of the heroic conduct of three French battalions which were surrounded in the forest of Pinon Monday. They entrenched themselves, determined to resist until the end. Success could not be sent them. Their rifles and machine guns were heard for many hours. The last message from them came Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by carrier pigeon. It said they would hold out until the last. It is probable that when their ammunition became exhausted the survivors were captured.

GERMANS GAIN MARNE RIVER UPON FRONT OF TEN MILES

Desperate Fighting for Chateau Thierry---Rheims Apparently Must Fall Soon---Enemy Rapidly Uses Up Reserves--- Many Divisions Thrown in by Crown Prince.

London, May 31.—A statement given to the Associated Press tonight by a high military authority, expressive of the opinion of the British general staff of the situation on the western front, says:

"The main German offensive has been directed toward Chateau Thierry and Dormans. The Germans have reached the right bank of the Marne in a front of ten miles from a point west of Chateau Thierry to Dormans. They have not captured Chateau Thierry, but are attacking very heavily here and to the northward."

"They already have captured Soissons and yesterday they extended their attack northwest to Noyon and forced the French back, so that the line now runs almost straight from Noyon to Soissons."

"Around Rheims the position is still somewhat obscure. Probably the Germans already have entered Rheims."

Situation Round Rheims.
 "The French reported yesterday that the allied line had retired to the south of the canal near Rheims, but this morning there was news that the British were resisting north of the city. The new development is that German attempts to extend the attack east of Rheims, where they were reported attacking last night, but no further details have yet been received."

"The Germans have thrown in every resource in an effort to widen the salient in which they find themselves by attacking its flanks, but on the heights to the west of Soissons the British are making a stand south and southwest of Rheims. These efforts thus far have held the German salient to a narrow width."

"The situation is very anxious, not only because the Germans have made such rapid progress—an advance of 25 miles in four days—but also because they still have such large reserves available to be thrown in at any point."

"The Germans' big attack began May 27 with about thirty divisions on a front of 35 miles from Berniercourt to Leully. This front was held by seven allied divisions, of which three British were on the right and four French on the left."

After Short Bombardment.
 "After a bombardment of two hours, which appears to have been very effective in cutting our wire, the Germans assaulted. They overran the French front lines. The British held in their second line at first, but

eventually were compelled to fall back to conform to the French alignment.

"The Germans advanced very rapidly, crossing the Aisne, altho the French had occupied very strong positions here, with three divisions commanding the river crossings."

"Since this time the crown prince has done the utmost possible with his group of armies to push forward. He has thrown in every reserve division he possesses, with the aim of pushing thru to the Marne and cutting the important railway to Chalons."

"Our transport of reserves has worked very well, and there is every reason to hope that Germany will not make any further progress at this point until the situation must remain as anxious as long as they have plenty of reserves available. The immediate future depends on what course the enemy adopts."

Crown Prince Uses Reserves.
 "The crown prince has used up practically all his own reserves, but could get a few from the army corps to the eastward. But the great bulk of the German reserves are to the north. It remains to be seen whether the enemy will use them to develop a success toward Paris or to pursue his original intention towards Amiens with the aim of cutting the allied armies in two."

"The Germans have the initiative. The crown prince has on his left the army group under Gen. Von Gallwitz, and to the left of Gallwitz is the army group under Duke Albrecht of Wurttemberg. Neither of these army groups has been engaged. Some reinforcements for further efforts by the crown prince could be obtained from these armies, but the bulk of the German reserves are in Prince Rupprecht's group to the right of the crown prince, and they are very formidable in strength. The enemy may put them in to exploit the success already gained and push in the direction of Paris, or he may continue his effort thru Amiens."

"The question has been much discussed during the past few days as to whether this German attack was a surprise to the allies. It cannot be called a complete surprise, for the fact that the concentration in Laon area was well known. But until a day or two before the battle we had no indication that an attack on a big scale was impending. The Germans deserve full credit for maintaining secrecy regarding their plan."

"The main masses of men were brought up to the actual front lines on the night before the attack, which

was preceded by only a two hours' bombardment for the purpose of cutting our wire. The Germans are not making the same use of their artillery as heretofore. They are using trench mortars in large numbers for wire cutting."

"The Germans were very skilful in keeping secrecy and in bringing up their troops at night. They had prepared for an attack on this part of the line for a long time, constructing the necessary gun emplacements and assembly places so that our aircraft did not observe any construction of new trenches or emplacements just before the attack. The German use of artillery before the attack was of a different character than heretofore."

"Their guns did not register on definite targets, but selected merely a wide area and shelled it continuously. It has always been difficult for aircraft to obtain definite strategical information. Thus in 1914 armies found it very hard to detect columns on the road, and much doubt existed as to the actual front covered by the German advance in Belgium."

"Under the conditions which prevailed in the region of the Chemin des Dames, an initial success could hardly be prevented. Nor can it be prevented anywhere where there are not adequate reserves immediately available."

"The allies have these disadvantages: First, they are inferior in numbers; second, they are acting on exterior lines; third, they have many vulnerable points; fourth, north of the Somme, they have little footing in which to manoeuvre."

"It is not fair to blame the high command when the allies have inherited an unfavorable strategic position. If it is said that the high command placed three tired British divisions on an exposed part of the front, it must be remembered that this disposition was made with full agreement of the British headquarters."

"Questions such as the bases of supply and communication have to be taken into account in the employment of troops. Until fresh reserves of the Germans have been engaged somewhere the situation must continue anxious."

ADVANCE IS IN JEOPARDY.

The occupation of Chateau Thierry marks the beginning of the expected turning movement toward Paris which the Germans were believed to have planned. If the town has been taken in its entirety, the Germans may be expected to move down the Marne. Before they can go far in this direction, however, it will be necessary for them to break the French lines south of Soissons, for as long as the French stand along the Soissons-Hartennes road, the German advance is in jeopardy. The Germans, however, claim already to have crossed this line. The attack along the Ailette may be the beginning of a movement that will seek to prevent the French from making a heavy attack somewhere in the neighborhood of Soissons.

General Foch, the commander-in-chief of the allied forces, has not as yet brought his reserves into action. All reports from the field of battle tell of the allied forces being vastly outnumbered.

45,000 PRISONERS CLAIMED.

The German official report claims that over 45,000 prisoners and more than 400 guns have been taken by the Teutons since the beginning of the battle on Monday, not counting large numbers of machine guns. This may be compared with the Germans' claim of more than 90,000 prisoners and over 1300 guns captured from March 21 to April 5 in the Picardy battle.

German airmen have been adding horrors to the fighting by their deliberate attacks on hospitals back of the allied lines. One large receiving station behind the American positions in Picardy has been bombed. A Canadian hospital was also attacked and partially burned by another German raiding party.

DISORDERS IN UKRAINE ARE REPORTED.

It is stated that several villages near Kiev were drenched with poisonous gas by the Germans and that whole communities were asphyxiated.

The United States transport, President Lincoln, a former German liner, has been torpedoed and sunk while on a trip to the United States from Europe. The vessel sank within an hour after being struck by the torpedo, but the number of lives lost is not yet known.

CHECKED BY COUNTER-ATTACK.

South of Soissons the enemy attempted a renewal of his push, but came in contact with French troops, which thrust him back, notwithstanding his employment of numerous tanks. The French here executed a vigorous counter-attack which caused great confusion and losses to German battalions and made the enemy hesitate. No progress was made.

In the centre the Germans are placing great faith in their immense superiority of numbers. An added advantage is that they carry a number of light and heavy machine guns. They evidently are abundantly supplied with ammunition as they kept their guns going at all times. Ville-en-Tardenois was a target for the few cannon they were able to carry forward with them during their rapid advance. Their incendiary shells started a fire in that town, or its immediate vicinity, as the correspondent witnessed large clouds of smoke there, while frequent shrapnel burst overhead.

HELD UP WEST OF RHEIMS.

Farther eastward, in the vicinity of Rheims, where the united French and British columns are resisting, the enemy appears unable to make any advance, except when the allies are ready to recede to readjust their line when neighboring troops fall back.

In the allied staff headquarters visited, the officers are full of confidence that the battle soon will turn in the favor of the allies, notwithstanding the present great superiority of the German of-

Fighting Starts on New Section of Line

With the French Armies in France, May 31.—Fighting has been begun on a new section of the battle line in the region of the Ailette River, between the Aisne front and the front of the German attack in March. Owing to the ability of the enemy to bring to bear a large concentration of artillery and the use of poisoned gas shells, the allies were obliged to withdraw slightly.

THE FAN-LIKE FORMATION OF THE ENEMY MOVEMENT WAS PUSHED OUT

on the sides and in the centre yesterday, covering more territory. The allies are falling back slowly before enormously greater numbers. Aviators report great activity on the roads all along the rear of the German advanced forces, as fresh enemy divisions are hurried forward to take the place of exhausted units. The allied airmen are doing splendid work, harassing the German reinforcements and supply columns by making attacks from low altitudes with machine guns. The German aviators are very numerous in this region, and aerial combats are occurring constantly.

IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE BATTLEFRONT THE ENEMY, FINDING THAT BEFORE HIM WERE ONLY TIRED TROOPS WHICH HAD FOUGHT DAY AND NIGHT SINCE MONDAY, WAS ABLE TO MAKE ANOTHER LEAP FORWARD TOWARD THE MARNE BY PENETRATING THE THIN ALLIED LINE WITH SMALL BODIES OF SELECTED MEN ARMED WITH LIGHT MACHINE GUNS.

THE BATTLE HAS NOW DEVELOPED ALMOST PURELY INTO AN INFANTRY FIGHT. THE ARTILLERY IN ACTION APPEARS TO BE ONLY OF ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT AS IS USUAL ON A QUIET SECTOR.

VIOLENT DIVERSION.

While continuing their strong pressure on the centre of their line, the Germans today began a violent diversion on the western wing along the Ailette River, where they advanced nearly five miles. The reason for this new push is probably because the Germans feared a counter-attack in that region that might endanger his forces now contained within the bulging salient where the enemy progressed during the first day.

THE ALLIES CHOOSE TO RECEDE, LEAVING IN THE POSSESSION OF THE GERMANS A PATCH OF TERRITORY APPROXIMATELY STRETCHING FROM THE EXTREME LIMIT OF VARESES, ON THE OISE, PASSING BY BLERANCOURT TO EPAGNY.

COMBATS FAVOR ALLIES.

In the vicinity of Soissons further combats of extreme violence today ended in favor of the allies. In this region the resistance of the French division was the absolute acme of heroism, fighting as they were, against odds immensely superior.

All the men seemed to know that where they retire it is simply for strategic purposes. They say: "We may be told soon to hold firm and we will do it." The same is true thruout the forces which are retiring.

THE EASTWARD FLANK OF THE ALLIES IS SHOWING WONDERFUL TENACITY, NOT ONLY PREVENTING THE GERMANS FROM ADVANCING, BUT EVEN COUNTER-ATTACKING AND RETAKING IMPORTANT POINTS. OFFICERS AND MEN AT THESE CRITICAL PERIODS PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE DANGERS OF PERSONAL COMBAT IN WHICH THE ENEMY HAS LOST FEARFULLY.

Paris, May 31.—German attacks on French positions on the right bank of the Ailette River have been repulsed. The Germans have reached the Marne, light detachments having penetrated as far as the river between Charleville and Joulgonne. On the right flank of the battle area the situation is unchanged, which is also the condition west and north of Rheims, according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight.

The statement reads:

"On our left wing, in the region of the lower Ailette, the Germans have continued their pressure during the course of the day. Our troops have broken all enemy attacks in the region of Blernancourt and west of this locality. The enemy, who had succeeded in crossing the Oise east of Semepigny, was repulsed on the right bank of the river. The principal effort of the enemy has been in the sector of Soissons and further to the south, in the direction of Neuilly St. Front. To the west of Soissons our troops have delivered vigorous counter-attacks and have arrested all the enemy's efforts, inflicting severe losses. The enemy was unable to make any progress in this direction. On the other hand, the enemy has been able to win some ground to the west of the road from Soissons to Chateau Thierry, and in the direction of this town he has passed Oulchy-La-Ville and Oulchy-Le-Chateau.

"In the centre weak German forces have reached the north bank of

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